

In re: Gillette et al.
Serial No.: 10/643,610
Filed: August 19, 2003
Page 2 of 14

In the Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A method of forming a loop component for use in a hook and loop fastening system, comprising:
 entangling a plurality of non-interbonded fibers in a fibrous web of material to form a spunlaced fabric having a plurality of loop structures that are configured to engage hooks from a hook component; and
 bonding between about two percent and about twenty five percent (2%-25%) of the spunlaced fabric to reduce fiber fuzzing and pull out caused by hooks engaging with and disengaging from a loop component.
2. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 1, wherein entangling a plurality of non-interbonded fibers comprises directing one or more jets of high-pressure water at the fibrous web of material.
3. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 1, wherein bonding comprises bonding the spunlaced fabric in a continuous bond pattern.
4. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 1, wherein bonding comprises bonding the spunlaced fabric in multiple, spaced apart bond patterns.
5. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 1, wherein bonding the spunlaced fabric comprises thermally, adhesively, or ultrasonically bonding the spunlaced fabric.
6. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 1, wherein bonding the spunlaced fabric comprises autogenously bonding the spunlaced fabric.
7. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 1, further comprising bonding the spunlaced fabric to a backing layer.

In re: Gillette et al.
Serial No.: 10/643,610
Filed: August 19, 2003
Page 3 of 14

8. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 7, wherein bonding the spunlaced fabric to a backing layer comprises thermally, adhesively, or ultrasonically bonding the spunlaced fabric to the backing layer.

9. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 7, wherein bonding comprises autogenously bonding the spunlaced fabric to the backing layer in a pattern.

10. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 9, wherein the bond pattern comprises a continuous bond pattern.

11. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 9, wherein the bond pattern comprises a repeat unit of between about 0.2 cm and 12 cm.

12. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 10, wherein the bond pattern comprises elements having dimensions between about 0.02 mm and 4 mm.

13. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 9, wherein the spunlaced fabric is bonded to between about two percent and about twenty-five percent (2%-25%) of a surface area of the backing layer.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 7, further comprising providing the backing layer with decorative indicia and/or coloring.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 1, further comprising embossing the spunlaced fabric with a decorative pattern.

16. (Withdrawn) A method of forming a loop component for use in a hook and loop fastening system, comprising:

In re: Gillette et al.
Serial No.: 10/643,610
Filed: August 19, 2003
Page 4 of 14

entangling a plurality of non-interbonded fibers in a fibrous web of material to form a spunlaced fabric having a plurality of loop structures that are configured to engage hooks from a hook component; and

stretching the spunlaced fabric in a cross web direction between about five percent and one-hundred twenty five percent (5%-125%) of the unstretched width of the spunlaced fabric.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 16, further comprising bonding between about two percent and about twenty five percent (2%-25%) of the spunlaced fabric to reduce fiber fuzzing and pull out caused by hooks engaging with and disengaging from a loop component.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 16, wherein entangling a plurality of non-interbonded fibers comprises directing one or more jets of high-pressure water at the fibrous web of material.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 17, wherein bonding comprises bonding the spunlaced fabric in a continuous bond pattern.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 17, wherein bonding comprises bonding the spunlaced fabric in multiple, spaced apart bond patterns.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 17, wherein bonding the spunlaced fabric comprises thermally, adhesively, or ultrasonically bonding the spunlaced fabric.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 17, wherein bonding the spunlaced fabric comprises autogenously bonding the spunlaced fabric.

In re: Gillette et al.
Serial No.: 10/643,610
Filed: August 19, 2003
Page 5 of 14

23. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 16, further comprising bonding the spunlaced fabric to a backing layer.

24. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 23, wherein bonding the spunlaced fabric to a backing layer comprises thermally, adhesively, or ultrasonically bonding the spunlaced fabric to the backing layer.

25. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 23, wherein bonding comprises autogenously bonding the spunlaced fabric to the backing layer in a pattern.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 25, wherein the bond pattern comprises a continuous bond pattern.

27. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 25, wherein the bond pattern comprises a repeat unit of between about 0.2 cm and 12 cm.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 26, wherein the bond pattern comprises elements having dimensions between about 0.02 mm and 4 mm.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 23, wherein the spunlaced fabric is bonded to between about two percent and about twenty-five percent (2%-25%) of a surface area of the backing layer.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 23, further comprising providing the backing layer with decorative indicia and/or coloring.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 16, further comprising embossing the spunlaced fabric with a decorative pattern.

In re: Gillette et al.
Serial No.: 10/643,610
Filed: August 19, 2003
Page 6 of 14

32. (Currently Amended) A loop component for use in a hook and loop fastening system, comprising a spunlaced nonwoven fabric having a plurality of loop structures formed only by entangling a plurality of non-interbonded fibers in a fibrous web of material, wherein the plurality of loop structures define a landing zone for receiving hooks from a male component of a hook and loop fastener, wherein the loop structures in the landing zone contain no interbonded fibers and contain no fibers bonded to a supporting layer, wherein between about two percent and about twenty-five percent (2%-25%) of a surface area of the landing zone is bonded in one or more patterns to reduce fiber fuzzing and pull out caused by hooks engaging with and disengaging from the loop structures of the loop component, and wherein loop structures remaining in the landing zone contain no interbonded fibers and contain no fibers bonded to a supporting layer.

33. (Previously Presented) The loop component of Claim 32, wherein the spunlaced fabric is stretched in a cross web direction between about five percent and about one hundred twenty-five percent (5%-125%) of an unstretched width of the spunlaced nonwoven fabric.

34 - 39 (Cancelled)

40. (Previously Presented) The loop component of Claim 32, wherein the fibers of the spunlaced nonwoven fabric have a denier of between about 0.5 and 19.

41. (Previously Presented) The loop component of Claim 32, wherein the fibers of the spunlaced nonwoven fabric have a density of between about 0.1 and 1.2 grams per cubic centimeter.

42. (Previously Presented) The loop component of Claim 32, wherein the spunlaced nonwoven fabric has a thickness of between about 10 and 95 mils.

In re: Gillette et al.
Serial No.: 10/643,610
Filed: August 19, 2003
Page 7 of 14

43. (Original) The loop component of Claim 32, wherein the non-interbonded fibers of the fibrous web comprise fibers selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyethylene, polyethylene terephthalate, polyester, acetate, nylon, viscose and acrylic, or blends or bicomponents thereof.

44. (Previously Presented) The loop component of Claim 32, wherein the spunlaced nonwoven fabric is embossed with a decorative pattern.

45. (Previously Presented) The loop component of Claim 32, further comprising a backing layer bonded to the spunlaced nonwoven fabric.

46. (Original) The loop component of Claim 45, wherein the backing layer comprises material selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyethylene, polyester, acetate, nylon, urethane, or blends thereof, polymer film, nonwoven fabric, woven fabric, and knit scrim.

47. (Original) The loop component of Claim 45, wherein the backing layer comprises polyolefin film having a density less than about 0.91 grams per cubic centimeter.

48. (Previously Presented) The loop component of Claim 45, wherein the backing layer is bonded to the spunlaced nonwoven fabric either thermally, adhesively, autogenously, or ultrasonically.

49. (Original) The loop component of Claim 45, wherein the backing layer comprises material impervious to water.

50. (Original) The loop component of Claim 45, wherein the backing layer has a thickness between about 0.4 and 40 mils.

In re: Gillette et al.
Serial No.: 10/643,610
Filed: August 19, 2003
Page 8 of 14

51. (Original) The loop component of Claim 45, wherein the backing layer has a density of between about 0.65 and 1.4 grams per cubic centimeter.

52. (Previously Presented) The loop component of Claim 45, wherein the spunlaced nonwoven fabric and backing layer has a thickness between about 8 mils and 400 mils.

53. (Previously Presented) The loop component of Claim 45, wherein the spunlaced nonwoven fabric and backing layer has a basis weight greater than or equal to 19 grams per square meter.

54 - 55 (Cancelled)

56. (Currently Amended) A hook and loop fastening system, comprising:
a hook component having a hook density between about 30 and 400 hooks per square centimeter; and

a loop component, comprising a spunlaced nonwoven fabric having a plurality of loop structures formed only by entangling a plurality of non-interbonded fibers in a fibrous web of material, wherein the loop structures of the spunlaced nonwoven fabric are configured to engage hooks from the hook component, wherein the plurality of loop structures define a landing zone for receiving hooks from a male component of a hook and loop fastener, wherein the loop structures in the landing zone contain no interbonded fibers and contain no fibers bonded to a supporting layer, and wherein between about two percent and about twenty-five percent (2%-25%) of a surface area of the landing zone is bonded in one or more patterns to reduce fiber fuzzing and pull out caused by hooks from the hook component engaging with and disengaging from the loop structures of the loop component, and wherein loop structures remaining in the landing zone contain no interbonded fibers and contain no fibers bonded to a supporting layer.

In re: Gillette et al.
Serial No.: 10/643,610
Filed: August 19, 2003
Page 9 of 14

57. (Previously Presented) The hook and loop fastening system of Claim 56, wherein the loop component spunlaced nonwoven fabric is stretched in a cross web direction between about five percent and about one hundred twenty-five percent (5%-125%) of an unstretched width of the spunlaced fabric.

58 - 59 (Cancelled)